

Sinclair refused to allow their abc affiliates to show a regularly scheduled program because they did not agree with it politically (Nightline salute to soldier in Iraq). More recently, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and Sinclair's attempt to use their influence to the outcome of an election.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.